

Summary of the Committee Meeting held on 8th November 2012 at The Compass Inn

Present:

- Ken Wilkinson (Chairman)
- Graham Richards (Treasurer)
- Rich Harding (Webmaster, Outgoing Secretary)
- Rob Kingston (Outgoing Nova Editor, Incoming Secretary)
- Tom Janikowski (Incoming PG Chief Coach)
- Declan Fleming (Incoming Nova Editor)
- Alan Davies (Incoming HG Low Airtime)
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Apologies for absence were received from:

- Richard Hellen (PG Safety)
- Chris Jones (HG Chief Coach)
- Tony Moore (HG Safety)
- Nick Somerville (Sites)
- Neil Atkinson (Social Secretary)
- John Cheale (Outgoing HG Low Airtime)

1 Christmas Party

A review took place of last year's post-Christmas party and plans for this year. It was felt that:

- Having it on a Saturday worked
- Having it after Christmas worked
- The hotel was good
- The food was of a better quality than at a typical pre-Christmas do
- Free parking was a useful bonus of the venue

An action was approved for the Social Secretary to book the hotel again, on a Saturday in February 2013, for this year's do.

2 Changes to the Committee Year

The Webmaster (and outgoing Secretary) proposed, prior to the AGM, that the timing of the AGM be amended so that it would take place in tandem with the post-Christmas party, in February, with the Committee Year then beginning on April 1st, lining it up with the Membership Year and shortening the Committee handover period, which some feel is too long.

Although the AGM and Christmas Party have been held at the same time on previous occasions, it was felt that effectively requiring Members to pay to attend the AGM was not acceptable. The Webmaster agreed to take responsibility for giving further consideration to how the stated goals might be achieved without this unintended consequence (which is likely to result in a proposal for an EGM to agree that the AGM be moved to March).

3 Mere Bash Review

It was unanimously agreed that this year's Mere Bash had been excellent, due mainly to the fantastic weather. More lights should be used was the main learning point.

It was suggested that we should return to putting the Bash on annually; points in favour were that there hadn't actually been much crossover between the Avon and Wessex events, even though this had been the rationale behind there having been no Bash in 2011 (the first gap since the event was resurrected at the end of the 90s) and that even "washed out" years had not seen a large loss; points against were that there is also a Blorenges do every other year and that it places a burden on those volunteers who put in the most effort. No firm decision as to whether it should be run annually was made and further discussions will take place. Tony Moore's thoughts on the matter, in particular, would be sought.

Everyone agreed that the bands were great and the Webmaster confirmed that both Leatherat and Also Eden would be happy to play the event again, whether in 2013 or 2014.

4 Parachute Repack

Mike Townsend, repacker, would be contacted about running a Club repack. The PG Chief Coach pointed out that he is a Level 2 Rope Access Handler. There was a discussion about the relative merits of the zip wire and suspension and spinning approaches and the consensus was that the latter was perfectly acceptable. The repack would be planned for early in the new year - January/February - and the Chairman and incoming Nova Editor will each look into available halls, with the Chairman also to speak to the PG Safety Officer in re the hall that we have previously used at Oldbury power station.

5 Update on Mere

It has come to our attention that The Duchy of Cornwall owns some of the land at Mere (that which does not belong to The National Trust) and that they have asked us to agree and sign a licence to fly. The Chairman has asked Burges Salmon solicitors for a legal view which has not yet been received.

6 Westbury Update

The HG Safety Officer reported via e-mail that:

- 1) The annual Litter Pick would be going ahead on Saturday, 17th November at 10AM
- 2) No further updates at present with regard to the emergency landing field
- 3) He had a phone call from English Heritage, having met the new officer on the site by co-incidence a while back, and exchanged phone numbers. Similar to Mere and The Duchy Of Cornwall, they are keen to go down the "license" route and he is now expecting a draft from them.

He also asked if Cloudbase had started using the site after the Chairman gave them the go ahead, to which the answer is "Yes".

7 Pilot Training

Fourteen people have signed up for Pilot Training, being organised by the PG Chief Coach.